IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-6, and 9-11 and ADD claim 12 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A fact data unifying method, comprising:

extracting from a text fact data stipulated by a combination of a target object, an attribute name, and an attribute value;

grouping data of a same type among extracted fact data, and performing a data aggregation throughout ~~a~~ the text to form at least one aggregated data set from the extracted fact data;

detecting an inconsistent data group which cannot be consistent by scanning an aggregated data set; and

determining which data is correct within the inconsistent data group, and unifying correct fact data by removing incorrect data.

2. (currently amended) A fact data unifying apparatus, comprising:

a data extracting unit extracting from a text fact data stipulated by a combination of a target object, an attribute name, and an attribute value;

a data aggregating unit grouping data of a same type among fact data extracted by said data extracting unit, and aggregating ~~the~~ a number of occurrences of the fact data throughout ~~a~~ the text into at least one data set;

an inconsistency detecting unit detecting an inconsistent data group which cannot be consistent by scanning a data set aggregated by said data aggregating unit;

a correctness/incorrectness determining unit determining which data is correct within the inconsistent data group detected by said inconsistency detecting unit; and

a final data integrating unit integrating correct data aggregated by said data aggregating unit, and data determined to be correct by said correctness/incorrectness determining unit.

3. (currently amended) The fact data unifying apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a reliability degree assigning unit assigning a degree of reliability to fact data when the fact data is extracted from ~~a~~ the text, ~~wherein:~~ where the degree of reliability of aggregated data is calculated from the degrees of reliability of ~~individual~~ the fact data included in the aggregated data, and assigned to an aggregation result, when the numbers of occurrences are aggregated by said data aggregating unit; and

wherein said correctness/incorrectness determining unit determines whether each data within a data group is either correct or incorrect by using the degree of reliability assigned to the data.

4. (currently amended) The fact data unifying apparatus according to claim 3, ~~wherein:~~ said reliability degree assigning unit comprises:

an event type extracting unit determining a type of event information possessed by a text from which fact data is to be extracted when the fact data is extracted from ~~a~~ the text, and

a reliability degree evaluating unit evaluating the degree of reliability according to an event type based on a correspondence table between an event type and the degree of reliability.

5. (currently amended) The fact data unifying apparatus according to claim 3, ~~wherein:~~ said reliability degree assigning unit comprises:

an attention degree evaluating unit calculating a degree of attention to a target object to be extracted within a text, and

a reliability degree evaluating unit evaluating the degree of reliability of data based on the degree of attention.

6. (currently amended) The fact data unifying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said reliability degree assigning unit comprises:

a bibliographical information/reliability degree correspondence table making a correspondence between bibliographical information of at least one of an issuance source[[;]] and an author of a text, ~~etc.,~~ and the degree of reliability of each of the fact data described in the text; and

a reliability degree evaluating unit evaluating the degree of reliability of a text according to bibliographical information of ~~a~~ the text by referencing said bibliographical information/reliability degree correspondence table, when data is extracted from the text.

7. (original) The fact data unifying apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said bibliographical information/reliability degree correspondence table is generated by attaching a correctness/incorrectness flag to fact data extracted by said data extracting unit, by receiving as an input the fact data to which the correctness/incorrectness flag is attached, and by calculating an expectation value of correctness/incorrectness of data having a particular attribute value for each attribute name of the fact data.

8. (original) The fact data unifying apparatus according to claim 2,

further comprising:

an attribute/determination method correspondence table which makes a correspondence between a target object, an attribute name, and a determination method used when a correctness/incorrectness determination is made; and

a determination method deciding unit deciding a correctness/incorrectness determining method according to an attribute based on said attribute/determination method correspondence table,

wherein said correctness/incorrectness determining unit makes a correctness/incorrectness determination by a method specified by said determination method deciding unit, when an inconsistent data group is input.

9. (currently amended) The fact data unifying apparatus <u>according to claim 2</u>, wherein:

an error pattern removing unit is arranged between said data extracting unit and said inconsistency detecting unit; and

said error pattern removing unit makes a correctness/incorrectness determination for each data by making a matching between the fact data extracted by said data extracting unit and a pre-registered error pattern, determines and discards the extracted fact data as an error if the extracted fact data matches the pre-registered error pattern, and transmits only data determined to be correct to said inconsistency detecting unit.

10. (currently amended) The fact data unifying apparatus according to claim 2, ~~wherein:~~ <u>further comprising</u> a data integrating unit, arranged after said data aggregating unit, ~~; and said data~~ integrating ~~unit passes~~ <u>similar data into integrated data and supplying the</u> integrated data to said inconsistency detecting unit ~~after integrating similar data into one~~.

11. (original) A storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing an information processing device to execute a process for unifying fact data stipulated by a combination of a target object, an attribute name, and an attribute value, which are extracted from a text, said process comprising:

extracting from a text fact data stipulated by a combination of a target object, an attribute name, and an attribute value;

grouping data of a same type among extracted fact data, and ~~performing a~~ aggregating the extracted fact data ~~aggregation~~ throughout ~~a~~ the text into at least one aggregated data set;

detecting an inconsistent data group which cannot be consistent by scanning an aggregated data set; and

determining which data is correct within the inconsistent data group, and unifying correct fact data by removing incorrect data.

12. (new) A method of correcting fact data, comprising:

extracting fact data from a text based on a target object and a name and value of an attribute;

grouping the fact data by type and aggregating grouped fact data from throughout the text into at least one aggregated data set;

detecting an inconsistent data group by scanning only the grouped fact data in the at least one aggregated data set; and

removing incorrect fact data within the inconsistent data group to produce a consistent data group of correct fact data.